

CLAIMS

- 5        1. In a communication network for electronic mail distribution between data  
processor controlled interactive display terminals, a sending terminal comprising:  
         means for storing data as a body and an attachment for sending with  
         electronic mail;  
         means for handshaking with a receiving terminal;  
10       means for converting data in the sending terminal into a set of symbols  
         that contain information regarding an object to which said data is linked;  
         means for transmitting symbols to the receiving terminal without  
         transferring data objects; and  
         means for transferring the data objects in response to requests by the  
15       receiving terminal.
2. The electronic mail communication network of claim 1 further comprising:  
         means for determining from said symbols a size of their corresponding  
         data object.
3. The electronic mail communication network of claim 2 further comprising means  
20       responsive to a request from the receiving terminal to select a data object from the  
         sending terminal.
4. The electronic mail communication network of claim 3 further comprising means  
         responsive to a request from the receiving terminal to download a data object  
         from the sending terminal.
- 25       5. The electronic mail communication network of claim 3 further comprising means  
         responsive to a request from the receiving terminal to delete a data object from the  
         sending terminal.
6. The electronic mail communication network of claim 2 wherein:  
         said means for storing a symbol of said data object separately from its  
30       corresponding data object is a separate file folder at the sending  
         terminal.

7. The electronic mail communication network of claim 6 further comprising means for separately transmitting said symbol from said data object.
8. A method for fast communication with a symbol linked object based system in a communication network for electronic mail distribution between data processor controlled interactive display terminals including the steps of:
  - storing, at a sending terminal, data as a body and an attachment for sending with electronic mail;
  - handshaking, by the sending terminal with a receiving terminal;
  - converting data in the sending terminal into a set of symbols that contain information regarding an object to which said data is linked;
  - transmitting symbols from the sending terminal to the receiving terminal without transferring data objects; and
  - transferring the data objects from the sending terminal in response to requests by the receiving terminal.
9. The electronic mail communication network of claim 8 further including the step of determining from said symbols a size of their corresponding data object.
10. The electronic mail communication network of claim 9 further including the step, responsive to a request from the receiving terminal, of selecting a data object from the sending terminal.
11. The electronic mail communication network of claim 10 further including the step, responsive to a request from the receiving terminal, of downloading a data object from the sending terminal.
12. The electronic mail communication network of claim 10 further including the step, responsive to a request from the receiving terminal, of deleting a data object from the sending terminal.
13. The electronic mail communication network of claim 9 wherein:
  - said storing of a symbol of said data object is stored separately from its corresponding data object is in a separate file folder at the sending terminal.
14. The electronic mail communication network of claim 13 further including the step of separately transmitting said symbol from said data object.

15. A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for fast communication with a symbol linked object based system in a communication network for electronic mail distribution between data processor controlled interactive display terminals, a sending terminal comprising:

- 5                means for storing data as a body and an attachment for sending with electronic mail;
- means for handshaking with a receiving terminal;
- means for converting data into a set of symbols that contain information regarding an object to which said data is linked;
- 10            means for transmitting to the receiving terminal without transferring data objects; and
- means for transferring the data objects in response to requests by the receiving terminal.

16. The electronic mail communication network of claim 15 further including means  
15            for determining from said symbols a size of their corresponding data object.

17. The electronic mail communication network of claim 16 further including means responsive to a request from the receiving terminal for selecting a data object from the sending terminal.

18. The electronic mail communication network of claim 17 further including means  
20            responsive to a request from the receiving terminal for downloading a data object from the sending terminal.

19. The electronic mail communication network of claim 17 further including means responsive to a request from the receiving terminal for deleting a data object from the sending terminal.

25            20. The electronic mail communication network of claim 16 wherein:  
               said means for storing a symbol of said data object separately from its corresponding data object is a separate file folder at the sending terminal.